GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3293
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
PITIABLE CONDITIONS OF CASHEW WORKERS
Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of workers/labourers employed in the cashew industry continue to be pitiable despite the progress and development in the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce suitable welfare schemes for the said workers /labourers; and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (d):The Government is committed to improve the conditions and provide social security to unorganized workers,including those engaged in cashew sector,through various labour laws like the Workmen compensation Act, 1923; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Employment'State insurance Act, 1948; the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which are fully or partially applicable to cashew workers also.With a view to providing social security to all segments unorganized workers,the Government introduced the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008' in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007.The Bill has since been passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Bill seeks to provide the formulation of social security schemes for the unorganized workers.The cashew workers, if covered under the definition of unorganized workers, would get benefit of the schemes to be framed for these workers.

The Government launched 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' providing for cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 to BPL families in unorganized sector through smart card. BPL families engaged in cashew industry are also covered under the scheme.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana'.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.